



The Guiding Star

H.J.B. Elementary Guidance and
Counseling Program Newsletter



Winter 2012

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School Counselor

Peer Mediation

Our Peer mediators, fifth graders trained to help others solve small problems, have held five mediations thus far. Other activities include making posters to advertise the service to the student body and to serve as new student greeters. As greeters, the mediators take turns in pairs to welcome students entering our school after January 1, 2012 with a small gift and an introduction to the peer mediation program.

New Groups Form

New guidance groups are forming for the new marking period. Groups are on similar topics appropriate to different grade levels. For example a group on social skills for kindergarten highlights cooperative play and manners while at the third grade level, the focus is on good communications and conflict management skills.

Please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Gallinger for more information.

Incidences of Bullying Down 14%

In December students taking a survey on bullying activity reported a 14% decline at HJB. Last spring roughly 42% of students who were surveyed marked the question "Have you been bullied this school year?" as "Yes" while the new survey results total an average of 28% saying "Yes". The national average for elementary school is around 33%.

While we are happy with this improvement, there is much more to do to educate students and eradicate bullying. Our school-wide effort this fall to educate students about bullying and the Bucket Filling philosophy, along with Guidance Lessons and daily class meetings by the teachers, have undoubtedly contributed to reducing bullying activity.

New Stars-Guiding Star Trophy Winners

The Guiding Star Trophy is awarded to each grade level Guidance Class with the best behavior during the marking period. Behavior includes being kind, completing work, and being helpful in letting others learn during guidance lessons. The trophies go to the classes of: Mrs. King (5th), Mrs. Salzgeber (4th), Mrs. Brade (3rd), Mrs. Landry (2nd), including 5 students from Mrs. Kidwell's class, Mrs. Baker (1st), and Mrs. Post (K). Congratulations students!

February 6-10 is National School Counseling Week

School counselors do a variety of jobs in an elementary school and differ from secondary school counselors. Whereas secondary counselors do class scheduling, cumulative record keeping, and guidance to enter college, elementary school counselors do none of that. Instead they have more time to do individual student counseling on issues ranging from divorce in a family to academic achievement. Approximately sixty percent of the time

they work directly with students either in individual counseling sessions or small groups (see information left). Forty percent of their time is spent on classroom guidance lessons and various activities like consulting with teachers and parents, and coordinating community services. One service that is being considered is sending needy kids home with food for the weekends . If you are interested in such a program, PLEASE call.
